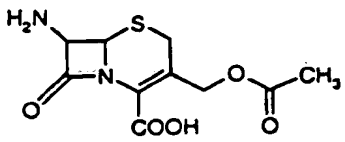
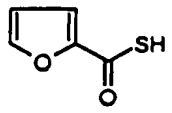
by the condensation of 7-amino cephalosporanic acid (7-ACA) represented by formula (II) with furyl-2-carbonylthiol represented by formula (III) using borontrifluoride as condensing agent.



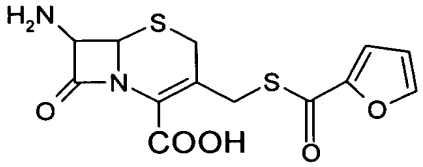
(II)



(III)

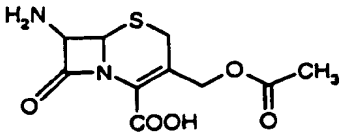
Page 4, first paragraph, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

The present invention provides a process for the preparation of 3-[2-(furylcarbonyl) thiomethyl]-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid represented by formula (I),

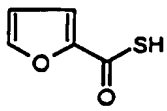


(I)

the said process comprising the steps of condensing 7-aminocephalosporanic acid (II) with furyl-2-carbonylthiol (III) in the presence of borontrifluoride at 20°-50°C in an organic solvent and isolating the compound of formula (I).



(II)



(III)